

## **“Our citizens must have affordable access to quality education and training opportunities that will prepare them for the jobs our economy is creating.”**

As a parent, I know how important it is for our families to have the opportunity to get additional education and training beyond high school. But the growing number of high school graduates and adults seeking new training opportunities is overwhelming available higher education resources. Our state colleges and universities already have to turn away too many qualified students. We must take down the “no vacancy” sign in higher education.

That’s why my budget for higher education expands enrollment at our state colleges and universities by 6,600 new full-time students, and also provides additional financial aid so more students can afford college. This increase in enrollment ensures that there is room at the inn for students graduating from high school and for adults who need to upgrade their knowledge and skills to advance in the workplace. Access to quality higher education and training opportunities is vital for them, for their families, and for the state’s economy.

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### **My Budget for Improving Access to Higher Education**

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**1 Expands access and improves quality in our state colleges and universities.** I will add 6,600 new enrollment slots to make room for more students at our higher education institutions.

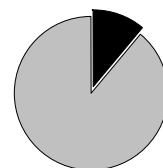
Additional tuition revenues are used to help institutions attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff, reduce class sizes, and expand research and scholarly opportunities for students.

**2 Creates more four-year universities.** For the first time, we are expanding branch campuses to allow students to enroll as freshmen and complete undergraduate degrees.

Authorizing four-year degrees at WSU-Vancouver and UW-Tacoma improves access and education options for students in those communities.

**3 Provides students with more financial aid.** State financial aid programs – like the State Need Grant – are essential for giving lower-income students an opportunity to earn a degree or acquire new workplace skills.

**The Higher Education budget is almost \$3 billion, and more than 10% of the State General Fund**



## The Governor's Budget for Higher Education

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### Expand access and improve quality in our state colleges and universities

**Expands higher education enrollment.** More students than ever want to take advantage of the opportunity for prosperity that higher education and training affords them. In response, the Governor's budget provides 6,600 new enrollment slots at our state colleges and universities, bringing the total number of full-time, state-subsidized enrollments to more than 223,100. The new enrollments will enable the state to keep up with the projected demand for access to the state's colleges and universities in the next biennium.

More than 3,000 of the new enrollments are distributed statewide among research, regional and branch campuses, providing greater access for freshmen and transfer students. More than 3,500 of the new enrollments are allocated to community and technical colleges to increase opportunities in academic and workforce training programs.

Included in the new enrollments are 300 slots dedicated to high-demand fields like health care, math, special education instruction and computer science. Funding also is provided to support adult basic education and literacy programs. *\$58.3 million GF-State*

**Authorizes tuition increases.** The Governor's budget assumes annual tuition increases of 5 percent per year at state four-year colleges and universities, and 3 percent per year at community and technical colleges. These tuition increases maintain affordable access for Washington citizens and provide the institutions with the revenue needed to attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff, reduce class sizes and expand research and scholarly opportunities for students. *As much as \$46 million in new tuition revenue*

### Create more four-year universities

**Establishes four-year programs at branch campuses.** More than a decade ago, the state established branch campuses of state research universities at Bothell, Tacoma, the Tri-Cities and Vancouver to improve access to higher education in areas of the state without public four-year institutions. Currently, the branch campuses offer courses for juniors and seniors – primarily transfer students – who have completed lower division coursework elsewhere.

The Governor's budget expands education opportunities at branch campuses, for the first time, by extending admission to freshman and sophomore students in Vancouver and Tacoma. New funding allows Washington State University to expand admissions to its Vancouver campus starting in the fall of 2006. The University of Washington begins admitting freshmen in Tacoma the following year. *\$2.3 million GF-State*

### Provide students with more financial aid

**Expands financial aid.** Programs like the State Need Grant are essential in giving low-income students a chance to go to college. Funding to assist these students is increased to accommodate higher enrollments and expected tuition increases. Promise Scholarship awards of \$1,200 a year for two years also are provided for students from low- to middle-income families who are in the top 15 percent of their high school graduating class. Promise Scholarships may be used at any public or private college or university in Washington. *\$26.9 million GF-State*